



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 17, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 7

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "The Meaning of a Gift" *Luke 6:17-26*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)
Hymns: **684** ~ "Blest Are They" (*see insert*) ~ **954** ~ (Communion: **699, 973, 821**) ~ **797**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Simply fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Karleigh Sonnenberg & Landen Kruse, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Wentworth, Ronda Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

NEW PARENTS: Eric & Kayleigh Riefers would like to announce the birth of their son, **Rhett Eric Riefers**, on Sunday, Feb. 10th at Henry County Hospital. Mother and child are home and doing well. Big brother, Brice, is already proving to be a responsible helper for everyone. Grandparents Bob & Karen Riefers will surely be driving the short distance to sneak a hug or two also. Congratulations Eric & Kayleigh!

THERE WILL BE NO ADULT INFORMATION CLASS THIS WEEK – We'll take off President's Day, and resume our class the following Monday, Feb. 25th, at 7:00 p.m. This is a kind of second kick-off of this class, so you haven't missed anything yet. Please join us!

2019 USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2019 Usher schedules are now available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again!

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:00AM 11:15AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion Sunday School Teacher's Meeting NWOLL Tournament Championship Games at St. Paul
Mon.	9:00 AM	NO SCHOOL – President's Day observed Ladies All Day Quilting and Blanket Knotting
Tue.	8:35 AM	Chapel led Pastor Kramer with a Presentation from Hope Academy
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Sat.	8:00 AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys Tournament at Liberty Center
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" LYF Sticky Bun Fundraiser 4-H Meetings – Freedom Royal Farmers/Gerald Busy Fingers/Cloverbuds
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Logan Schiewe</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, Dorothy Gerken, and Lawrence Langenhop,* at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Melba Elling,* in Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry,* residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, Shorty Bischoff, Susan Nye, and Don Dickmann,* for health concerns at this time
- ❖ *Phyllis Silveus,* who underwent surgery at Toledo Hospital recently and is recovering at home
- ❖ *Darrel Bockelman,* who continues to be hospitalized in serious condition at the Toledo Hospital ICU
- ❖ *School Cook Tonya Whitman,* continuing to deal with her severe and incapacitating headaches
- ❖ *Ron Hesterman,* who will be undergoing open-heart surgery on Tuesday at the Toledo Hospital for valve replacement
- ❖ *Teresa Ward and Family,* at the sudden passing of her husband, Royal 'Fuzz', on Sat., Feb. 9th

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY – They say about adoption, "Adopting one child won't change the world: but for that child, the world will change." This is certainly true when we consider that every Christian has also been adopted by the heavenly Father. That changes everything for us. But what exactly does it mean to be adopted? **Please join us this morning in the fellowship hall for this study of God's Word as we turn to the second part of Romans chapter 8.** It's never too late to join us!



LADIES BLANKET KNOTTING OR QUILTING is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 18. Got cabin fever? Come and join us! There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule. Hope to see you on Feb. 18th!

SUNDAY SCHOOL – *****NOTE: There will be short meeting for all who teach Sunday School today following the Sunday School hour at 11:15 AM.** We are looking for some volunteers to help teach Sunday School for the 2019 calendar year. You don't have to have any teaching experience and we are looking for anyone at any age! All that is required is the love for Jesus in your heart and the willingness to share that with the children of our church! You will be put into a position/grade level at your comfort level and will be on a rotation where you will only be obligated to teach once a month (*or possibly once every three weeks*). If you are interested, please contact either Steph Damman (419-966-3941) or Kelly Sonnenberg (419-906-1626).

THANK YOU to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They donate their time and equipment to get this job done after each snowfall. This year's snowfall has kept them very busy! Great job guys! Thank you for being willing servants here at St. John!

2018 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2018 individual offering contribution totals (green sheets) are available this morning on the table in the narthex. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call Financial Trustee, *Kathy Gruenhagen* at 419-335-9173.

2018 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2018 Church Annual. The secretaries of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers ASAP.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/10/19	\$8,001.00	\$226.00	\$367.00

ATTENDANCE: 222

STICKY BUNS FUNDRAISER: The LYF will be selling their famous sticky buns next Sunday, Feb. 24th immediately after the worship service. Be sure to plan ahead and stop by to purchase some goodies. The money raised will go toward the National Youth Gathering to Minneapolis this summer.

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Book of Obadiah, Judging Others, First Century Martyr Polycarp, Jesus Calls Philip & Nathanael and more. You can listen live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

150th Anniversary Notes

NEXT ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY – Mar. 17

The second of our anniversary services is scheduled for **Sunday, March 17**. Theme: “**Jesus Christ – YESTERDAY.**” **Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock** will be our guest preacher.

- **The Kantorei men’s chorus from our Fort Wayne seminary** will be our musical guests.
- **A meal and program will follow.** Rev. Dale Kern will be on hand as one of our early pastors



Seminary Kantorei

WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: “Balance” is the topic for the Women’s Lenten Bible Study this year. We will be meeting on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings during Lent. The first Tuesday Bible Study will begin on March 12th at 9:30 AM, and will conclude on Tues., April 16th. The first Thursday Bible Study will begin on March 7th at 7:00 PM, and will conclude on Thurs., April 11th. This is open to all women of the church. Please sign up at the table in the narthex or just come to whichever session fits your schedule.

LENT BEGINS TWO WEEKS FROM WEDNESDAY

It’s a late Lent and Easter this year! Hopefully that means better weather so everyone can make it to our midweek Lenten services, starting on **Ash Wednesday, March 6th**.

Our midweek theme this year is: **A Lent To Remember.** We will be looking at the many ways Scripture uses the word ‘remember.’ Together we will remember God’s wondrous works, His covenant, His love, Christ’s holy supper, His death, and His resurrection. Be sure to set these evenings aside for worship as we walk with Jesus to His cross so that we can also celebrate Easter together with fullness of joy!



ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – SEEKING THE LOST: Lutheran schools, which enroll children from all parts of the community, provide new and varied opportunities for evangelism by the congregation and its staff. These opportunities are not available in any other way. That’s why Lutheran schools are considered the most effective agencies in congregational evangelism and why pastors of growing congregations with schools in nearly every case, identify the school as the congregation’s most effective outreach agency. Eighty-five percent of the fastest growing congregations in the Synod operate schools.

REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL NOW! The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2019-20 school year. The 4/5 year old class is half full and the 3 year old class still has plenty of openings. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. Preschool registration is now open to the public, so be sure to register soon. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

YOUTH CENTER: For those of you who would like to donate your labor for the new Youth Center project, there is a green sheet on the table in the narthex to sign up and list your phone number. We will be starting on some of the work very soon. We have some interior brick from the chimney that needs to be removed, also framing walls, help installing windows, blowing insulation in the attic (*at a later date*), etc. This labor will help to offset the financial burden of the project. In the past we have enjoyed the company of members getting together to build and improve the Lord's house. Thank you in advance for your support. Questions...Call Denny Damman at 419-966-2687. *The Building Committee*

FOLLOW OUR CHURCH ON FACEBOOK – Our new Facebook page will be a source of information about our 150th Anniversary year, as well as a place where members and school alumni will be encouraged to share memories of the past. The first of many historical pictures have already been posted there. Please be sure to ‘like’ and ‘share’ these posts so that we can reach the broadest possible audience. Let’s build a good Facebook following, as we approach the 150th celebration.

If you aren’t following our church yet on Facebook, just search for “St. John Lutheran, Napoleon” and you’ll see us in this list with a profile picture of the outside front of the sanctuary. Be sure to share the page with your friends, and (Our school also has a Facebook page; find and follow it!)

MORE GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – We received another case of books this past week. If you didn’t get one yet, you can still do so. Stop in at the church office to purchase your copy or you can also send \$12 to Robert L. Stockman, 1218 Spoonbill Landing Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209, and he will mail your copy to you via USPS.

If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider this history book about the development of Gerald? This book is full of interesting facts about Gerald, Freedom Township, and St. John Church. Get your copy today!

AREA EVENTS:

- **CHICKEN PIE DINNER** hosted by the Ridgeville American Legion & Auxiliary today with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICAID SEMINAR** will be held at Genacross Lutheran Services – Napoleon Campus on Thurs., Feb. 21st at 4:00 PM. See flyer!
- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, on Sun., Mar. 3rd serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept., Sun., Mar. 3rd serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!


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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (1 Thes 5:11)

Sermon Hymn
982 Blest Are They



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; Theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; They shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; Mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; They are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, All be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they, full of
her - it the earth. Blest are they who hun - ger and
shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who suf - fer in
cause of Me. Re - joice and be glad, yours is the



sor - row; They shall be con - soled.
thirst; They shall have their fill.
heart; They shall see God!
faith; The glo - ry of God is theirs.
king - dom; Shine for all to see.


Refrain



Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are you,



ho - ly are you. Re - joice and be glad! Yours is the



king - dom of God.